

Message Text

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15

ORIGIN ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-03 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INR-05

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DRAFTED BY ARA/LA:WHLUERS:GMR

APPROVED BY ARA:WHLUERS

ARA/AND/V - MR. SONANDRES

ARA/AND - MR. DEVINE

D - MR. POATS

S/S - MR. BRIDGES

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O 202204Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 233075

LIMDIS, FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM LUERS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, ENRG, VE

SUBJECT:VISIT OF OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM PRESIDENT TO
VENEZUELA

1. JOSEPH BAIRD, PRESIDENT OF OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM, WILL
VISIT CARACAS BEGINNING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21. HE WILL
BE ACCOMPANIED BY OCCIDENTAL'S ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL,
JOHN ALDEN. THEY WILL BE STAYING AT THE HILTON HOTEL.

2. BAIRD'S PURPOSE WILL BE TO DELIVER TO SENIOR GOV
OFFICIALS AND JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES, A DEPOSITION FROM
OCCIDENTAL BOARD CHAIRMAN ARMAND HAMMER WHICH SEEKS TO
CLARIFY BRIBERY ALLEGATIONS THAT HAVE APPEARED IN THE
PRESS. BAIRD WILL ALSO SEEK APPOINTMENTS WITH KEY
MINISTERS AND POSSIBLY WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ AND THE
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MINISTER OF MINES TO SEEK A SOLUTION TO THE DISPUTE OVER

\$73 MILLION COMPENSATION OCCIDENTAL IS SEEKING FROM THE GOV FOR ITS ASSETS IN VENEZUELA. BAIRD ALSO DESIRES TO CLEAR UP REPUTATION OF OCCIDENTAL IN VENEZUELA AND CONVINCE OFFICIALS THERE THAT NO PROOF HAS YET BEEN FOUND OF ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES OF THE COMPANY. BAIRD IS ALSO TALKING ABOUT THE NEED TO BEGIN ACTION TO SEIZE VENEZUELAN ASSETS ABROAD IF SOME MOVEMENT IS NOT MADE SOON TOWARD COMPENSATION AND CLEARING OCCIDENTAL'S NAME IN VENEZUELA.

3. I DISCUSSED SITUATION AT LENGTH WITH BAIRD AT THE REQUEST OF ACTING SECRETARY ROBINSON WHO HAD BEEN CALLED BY BAIRD. I SUGGESTED THAT BAIRD CALL ON YOU FIRST THING WEDNESDAY TO DISCUSS APPROACH AND INFORM YOU OF HIS CONCERNS. ROBINSON

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To: CARACAS
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